

# YOUNG AMERICANS, JOBS AND THE ECONOMY

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Over 2.5 million private sector jobs have been lost over the past three years – a sharp contrast to the economic prosperity of the Clinton Administration, which created 22 million jobs over eight years. Although the Bush Administration has started to create some jobs, they have averaged only 109,000 private sector jobs a month – far less than what is needed to keep up with new entrants into the workforce. That means that young people leaving high school and college can't find work. Democrats are fighting to jumpstart our economy and provide a job for everyone who wants one.

**Republicans fail to invest in creating new jobs.** The number-one issue for Americans aged 18 to 30 is finding a job. More than two years into the “recovery,” the pace of job creation remains the worst in 70 years, but Republicans have no new proposals to create jobs. Instead, the Bush budget squanders over \$1 trillion over the next 10 years on tax breaks, creating a long-term drag on economic growth.

**A growing “debt tax” on young Americans.** Fiscally reckless Republican policies have turned a \$5.6 trillion surplus into nearly \$3 trillion in deficits over the next 10 years. By 2014, families will pay an extra \$10,368 in interest on the national debt (or a “debt tax”) – reducing consumer demand, raising interest rates, and making it harder for families to achieve financial security.

**Vocational education, community colleges, and youth job training programs.** The Bush budget cuts \$316 million from vocational education and community colleges. This new round of cuts is in addition to more than \$1.5 billion in proposed cuts to job training and vocational education programs since President Bush took office. And despite the weak job market and the enormous need for job training programs, the Bush budget essentially freezes funding for youth job training programs.

**Democrats want to create good jobs now.** Democrats want to create jobs now by encouraging manufacturers to hire new workers and providing relief to small businesses – the engine of our economy. Democrats would also pump money into the economy by extending unemployment benefits and investing in a highway bill that will create over 1 million new jobs.

**Democrats are working to end the outsourcing of jobs overseas.** The Bush Administration has lost 2.8 million manufacturing jobs over the past three years and Republicans have done nothing to shore up our manufacturing sector. Democrats are pushing a bipartisan solution to provide tax relief to manufacturers to create good paying jobs here in the United States. But Republicans are instead pushing a bill that would give tax breaks to multinational corporations to move jobs overseas.

**Democrats working to end new sanctions for American farmers and manufacturers.** On March 1, Europe began to retaliate against American manufacturers for continuing a tax subsidy for U.S. exports. The Republican-controlled Congress had more than a year to fix this problem, but failed to act. Now, because of Republican inaction, American sports equipment manufacturers, dairy producers, yacht manufacturers, and citrus and cattle farmers face financial penalties making their products harder to sell.

**Democrats are fighting to protect overtime pay.** Democrats are working to block the Bush Administration's proposal to deny overtime pay to more than eight million Americans. Because of incredible Democratic unity, Congress has told the Bush Administration to stop pursuing changes to overtime regulations that are a part of their continuing assault on working families. But the Republican leadership is cutting backroom deals that would mean less pay and longer hours for working Americans.

